

Each year Clean Ocean Action issues a report that provides a compelling snapshot of the marine debris found along the bays, rivers and ocean in NJ.

In 2010, a record 8,372 citizens turned out for the 25th Anniversary of the Beach Sweeps collecting 475,321 pieces of trash.

Over these years, 85,000 volunteers have collected and catalogued over 4.5 million pieces of trash.

This Special Report highlights the past 25 years and reports on the events of 2010.



Celebrating 25 Years Of Citizen Action





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18 Hartshorne Drive, Suite 2  
Highlands NJ, 07732  
(732) 872-0111  
cleanoceanaction.org

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2010 was cause for celebration as it marked 25 years of citizen action in our semi-annual Beach Sweeps! In 1985, Clean Ocean Action (COA) launched the first Beach Sweep in Sandy Hook, NJ. That year, 75 volunteers gathered to rid the beaches of unsightly and harmful debris. Twenty-five years later, the Beach Sweeps program has grown to include 70 locations along New Jersey’s coastline, as well as rivers, lakes, and streams. The program brings together thousands of volunteers each year.

The success of the Beach Sweeps program illustrates the public’s support for a clean ocean as well as the power of citizen action. The ultimate goals are clean beaches and communities that are aware of the negative impacts of litter on wildlife and the ocean—therefore having communities that no longer require beach sweep efforts.



**Building a legacy.** COA Sweeps are about more than citizen action cleaning up the beaches—they document the debris that is found and the data is used to improve programs and drive public policy to reduce litter.

Each Sweep participant records on our data card each piece of debris found. The data collected is then compiled into an annual report that provides a snapshot of New Jersey marine debris problems during a given year. It is important to remember that this report does not reflect daily monitoring, but rather a two-day snapshot of two Sweep events, which together total seven hours.

This report highlights and documents the magnitude and extent of marine debris. It provides evidence to reduce litter, serves to educate the public, and drives efforts to combat marine pollution. The data has been used to establish federal, state, and local programs and laws to reduce litter. It has also been used for school research papers, lesson plans, and student projects.

The data from COA Fall Sweeps is also submitted to Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC, as part of an international database on marine debris and global campaigns against ocean pollution.





# Dear Beachy Friends,

Happy Beach Sweeps 25!

Congratulations and *waves of thanks* for 25 years of sweeping success! As our ocean's first line of defense, you know that the quality of the ocean depends on citizens to improve and protect this precious watery world.

From the earliest days, nothing dampened your spirit for ocean protection—rain, blasting winds, or freezing temperatures. Together we have collected, tallied, sorted, recycled, and rallied against litter on our beaches. The oceans and waterways are cleaner and healthier today, thanks to you!

You have brought your children to the Sweeps and now they bring their children. It's become a family tradition that we hope to end, as our beaches will one day be litter free.

To celebrate our 25th Year of Beach Sweeps, Clean Ocean Action held New Jersey's first *Symposium Against Beach Litter* on March 13, 2010, and published the Journal of Citizen Action Against Beach Litter. The Symposium, held at Brookdale Community College, brought together scientists, Beach Captains, beach-goers, and elected officials to learn about marine debris. Symposium attendees heard scientists from Sea Education Association (SEA) in Massachusetts discuss premier research findings on the magnitude and extent of plastics in the Atlantic Gyre. COA presented findings on the data collected by Beach Sweeps volunteers over the past 15 years. Elected officials discussed legislative efforts to reduce litter and the importance of citizen action. The Journal of Citizen Action Against Beach Litter includes detailed analysis of the beach sweep data and legislative and regulatory improvements attributable to Beach Sweeps, as well as more information about marine debris, highlights, vintage photos, and testimonials by Beach Captains. The report is available on our website, [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org).

The Symposium also kicked off a remarkable year for Beach Sweeps. You came together in record numbers (8,372), collected more debris than ever (475,321), and you made the beaches cleaner and safer for all to enjoy.

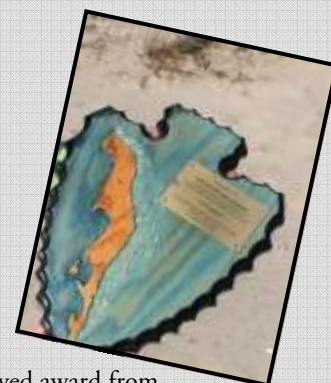
This Beach Sweep 2010 Special Report is a salute to you, our Beach Captains and Beach Sweepers, as well as a call to action for others to join the effort. The report provides an overview of the data collected and issues that still need to be addressed. It also includes a few highlights of the work you have done over the past twenty-five years.

Though overall beaches, waterways, and the ocean are cleaner and healthier today thanks to you, much more needs to be done. Beaches get trashed, vast ocean areas are infused with plastics, and hundreds of thousands of animals die each year due to marine debris. This is an undeniably human-caused tragedy.

We are all responsible for the pollution. Together, we can be the solution.

Ever onward,

Cindy Zipf  
Executive Director



Hand-carved award from Gateway National Recreation Area thanking Clean Ocean Action for 25 years of Beach Sweeps at Sandy Hook.

Photo by volunteer photographer Bob Lisiesky.











Teachers & friends from Marine Academy of Science and Technology



(Excerpt from the "Journal of Citizen Action Against Beach Litter")

# Beach Sweeps: A History



Christopher Reeves and Al Gore join Cindy Zipf at Beach Sweeps in 1992

Clean Ocean Action's Beach Sweeps is one of the longest running cleanups in the world. The first event, called the Debris-a-thon was held in 1985 at Sandy Hook, NJ, with over

75 small and tall citizens. Over the years, the name of the event changed, including Trash Bash, and Trash Attack, before settling on Beach Sweeps.

An important objective of the Beach Sweeps program is the volunteer-collected data. During a Beach Sweep all volunteers are instructed to collect trash, as well as record everything they find on COA's data card. This information is compiled into an annual report and used to educate the public to advocate for pollution prevention initiatives and legislation. The Beach Sweeps Reports turn the one day event into a legacy of information. Throughout the years, the reports have been used to pass smoking bans, encourage recycling programs, and support plastic bag bans.

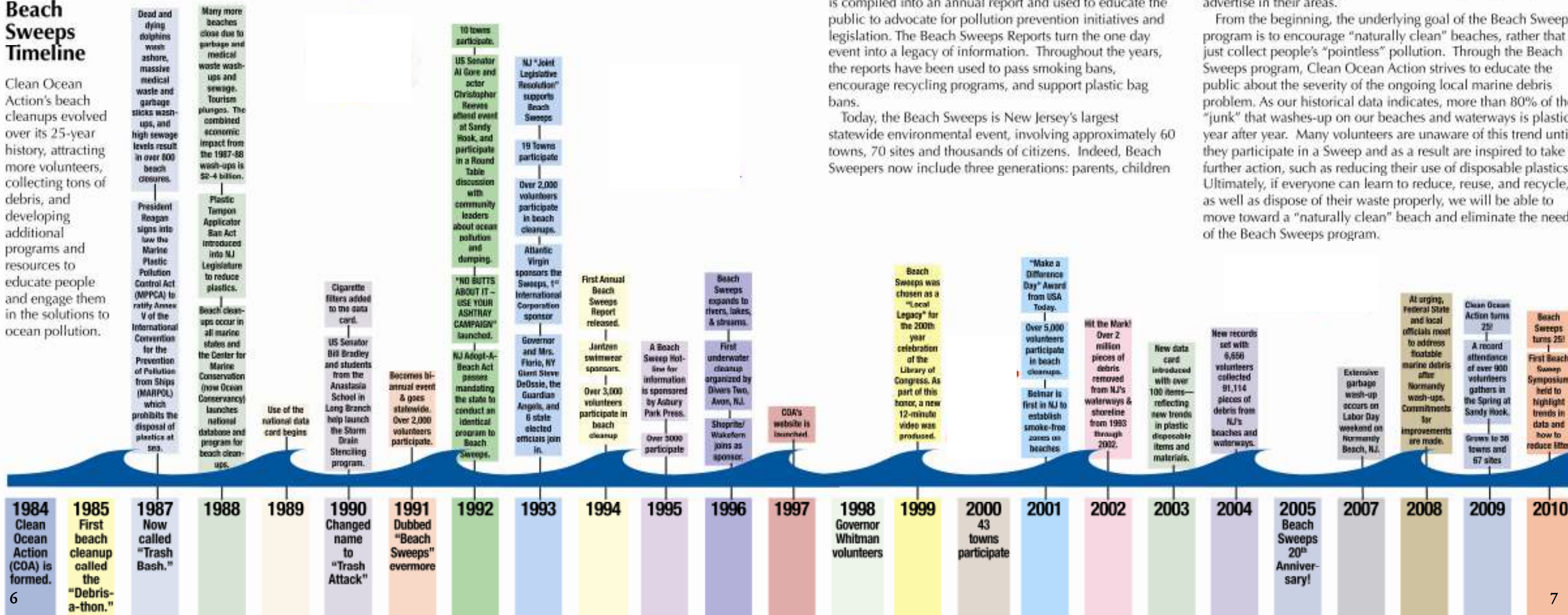
Today, the Beach Sweeps is New Jersey's largest statewide environmental event, involving approximately 60 towns, 70 sites and thousands of citizens. Indeed, Beach Sweepers now include three generations: parents, children

and their children. At the heart of the program are Beach Captains, volunteers that organize and manage the events at each individual site. Beach Captains direct all Beach Sweeps volunteers, make arrangements for trash/recycling pickup, and advertise in their areas.

From the beginning, the underlying goal of the Beach Sweeps program is to encourage "naturally clean" beaches, rather than just collect people's "pointless" pollution. Through the Beach Sweeps program, Clean Ocean Action strives to educate the public about the severity of the ongoing local marine debris problem. As our historical data indicates, more than 80% of the "junk" that washes-up on our beaches and waterways is plastic, year after year. Many volunteers are unaware of this trend until they participate in a Sweep and as a result are inspired to take further action, such as reducing their use of disposable plastics. Ultimately, if everyone can learn to reduce, reuse, and recycle, as well as dispose of their waste properly, we will be able to move toward a "naturally clean" beach and eliminate the need of the Beach Sweeps program.

## Beach Sweeps Timeline

Clean Ocean Action's beach cleanups evolved over its 25-year history, attracting more volunteers, collecting tons of debris, and developing additional programs and resources to educate people and engage them in the solutions to ocean pollution.







Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.

Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. —Margaret Mead

## 25th Anniversary Beach Sweep

### Honorees:

Carolyn McGuire & John Grossarth  
*Corporate Citizenship Award*

Barbara Boyd &  
The students of Marine Academy of Science & Technology  
*Science Award*

John Wnek  
*Beach Captain Endurance Award (15 Years Plus)*

Dr. Bill Rosenblatt  
*Beach Captain Endurance Award (15 Years Plus)*

Jenkinson's Aquarium  
*Education Award*

Jay Kelly, Ph.D.  
*Research Award*

Fran and Peter Donnelly  
*Beach Sweep Family Award*

Kari Martin  
*Beach Sweep Family Award*

Jeff Hoffberger  
*Citizen Action Award*

Kathleen Gasienica  
*Citizen Action Award*



### Testimonials:

“I like to make the world a nicer place. The data records let us know how much trash we get and also lets us see the different types of trash we collect. We use this information to find where it is coming from and make changes.”—Peter John Donnelly (Union Beach)  
At age 11, Peter was COA’s youngest beach captain!

“Our Beach Sweeps are much more than cleaning up trash and debris. Rather, the Sweeps provide the perfect opportunity and venue to educate the community as to the importance of protecting the ecology of our beautiful harbor, since the harbor literally defines the Cape May lifestyle in terms of recreation, economy and history.”  
—Gretchen Witman (Cape May)

“Beach Sweeps provides a chance for the community to see what happens when they do not dispose of their trash responsibly. It is a great opportunity to provide education on how to recycle, and why it is important to protect our oceans.” —Jenna Leeds (Longport)

“The Clean Ocean Action Beach Sweeps are one of the best ways my students can come together and learn that our disposable society has an impact on the marine Environment.” — Jeff Martin (Cape May)

For more quotes, see the *Journal of Citizen Action Against Beach Litter* on COA’s website.

# Dedicated **BEACH CAPTAINS** make Beach Sweeps a success!

Town	Organizations and Captains
<b>Essex County</b> Glen Ridge	Patricia Doyle
<b>Middlesex County</b> Old Bridge Waterfront Park	Valerie Lysenko
<b>Monmouth County</b> Aberdeen	Frank Huza
Asbury Park	Leo and Kathleen Gasienica, Kat Sorensen
Atlantic Highlands	Greg Pollack
Avon	Joe Mario and Justin Roach
Belmar	Jesse Beutell, Leo and Kathleen Gasienica
Bradley Beach	Amanda Wheeler
Brielle	Mary Lou and Rick Bolger
Deal	Derek Riddle and Surfriider Foundation, Jersey Shore Chapter
Highlands	Colette DeNardo, Chris Francy, Rebecca Kane, Joe Reynolds, and Steve Szulecki
Bayshore Waterfront Park	Joe, Kari and Astri Martin
Keansburg	Ann Commarato and Danielle Ehrhardt
Keyport	Mike Palmisano
Allenhurst	Bill Rosenblatt
Long Branch	Jill McGrath and Tyler Thompson
Manasquan	Carole Hart and Rich Miller
Middletown	Ben Ascone, Kathy Bushman, Ralph and Tara Carloni, Lisa Fuchs, Sue Siegwarth, and Carol Spratford
Monmouth Beach	Mary Horoski and Maureen Sczpanski
Ocean Grove	Ashley Bonefont and Cassie Senkel
Sandy Hook	Barbara Bennett, Paige Hakim, Kristan Scala and Marine Academy of Science and Technology
Sea Bright	Eve Critton, Jessica Elicker, Andrew Mencinsky, and Mark Woldseth
Sea Girt	South Monmouth Board of Realtors and Tammy Schweir
Spring Lake	Bill Cleary and East Coast Dive Center
Union Beach	Fran and Peter Donnelley
<b>Ocean County</b> Barnegat	John Durasky
Bay Head	Dan Keifer



Town	Organizations and Captains
Beachwood	Ellen Casertano, Wendi Higgins, and Jayne Moormann
Brick	Mark and Sue Dulong
Lakewood	Christina and Michelle Palmieri
Lavallette	Chet Boyers and Anita Zalom
Mantoloking	Jeanne and Scott Hulse
Ocean Gate	Brian DiStefano and Mayor Paul Kennedy
Point Pleasant	Marianne Grant
Point Pleasant Beach	Diana Costanzo, Danni Logue, and Diane Predimano
Seaside Heights	Coastal Jersey Parrothead Club, Sirena Fredricks, Mary Gibbs, Dana Gregory, Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science, Ocean County College Water Watch, Grace Peck, Kevin Quigley, John Wnek, and Pat & Bob Bennekamper
Seaside Park	Krista Barone, Joe Humenik, Bonnie and Julie Peterson, and Ted Jermansen
Toms River	Mark and Clare Haviland, Labrador Lounge, Cara Muscio, and Marilyn Schlossbach
Island Beach State Park	Cheri Deligny
<b>Atlantic County</b> Atlantic City	Jeff Hoffberger, Ruth Leensera, Stockton College Water Watch. and Alexandra Wenzholz
Brigantine	Joe Campitelli
Egg Harbor Twp	Jennifer Hess
Longport	Jenna Leeds and Margo Pellegrino
Margate	Franz Adler and Max's Mission
Forsythe Wildlife Refuge	Caroline DiGiovanni and Sandy Perchetti
Ventnor	Adventure Aquarium, Marc Kind, Anthony Falcone, and PJ Polinski
<b>Cape May County</b> Avalon	Andie and Kim Babusik
Cape May	Mark Allen, Jeff Martin, and Gretchen Whitman
Del Haven	Damon Noe
North Wildwood	Travis Dauria
Ocean City	Krissy Halkes, Alexandra Marcus, Andrew Oster, and Margo Pellegrino
Sea Isle City	Annette Lombardo and Bob Thibault
Strathmere	Chuck Endicott and Jersey Shore Parrot Head Club
Stone Harbor	Helen Edwards
Wildwood	Kyle Mumford and Jessica Westerland



**Sign-up to Volunteer To Become a Beach Captain!**



## Grade Schools

All Saints, Atlantis Prep, Belhaven, Bishop McHugh Regional Catholic, Bolger, Brigatine North, Calvary Academy, Central Jersey Homeschoolers, Central Regional, Eisenhower, Eudgene A Tighe, Forrestdale, Hope Academy, Howell North, Howell South, Indian Hill, Jordan Road, Neeta, Ocean Twp. Intermediate, Point Pleasant Memorial, Ranney, Rumson County Day, Rutgers Prep, St. Rose of Lima, St. Catherine, St. Peters, Stuart Country Day, Wilberforce, Thorne, Toms River Intermediate North, Toms River Intermediate South, Union Avenue, William H. Ross, William R. Satz.

## Elementary Schools

All Saints, Atlantis Prep, Ben Franklin, Bishop McHugh Regional Catholic, Bradley Beach, Brielle, Calvary Academy, Central Jersey Homeschoolers, Chelsea Heights, Deane Porter, Eisenhower, Fairview, Harmony, Highlands, Holy Cross, Holy Family, Hope Academy, Lavallette, Lillian Drive, Middletown Village, Monmouth Beach, Navesink, Nellie F. Bennett, New Monmouth, Nut Swamp, Oak Knoll, Ocean Avenue, Ocean Gate, Ranney, Rumson County Day, Rutgers Prep, Shrewsbury Borough, Sovereign Avenue, Spring Lake Heights, St. Jerome, St. Josephs, Stuart County Day, Sunnymead, Uptown School ,Complex, Washington Street, River Plaza.

## High Schools

Abington Senior, Allentown, Atlantic City, Biotechnology, Bound Brook, Brick Memorial, Calvary Academy, Cape May County Technical, Carteret, Central Jersey Homeschoolers, Central Regional, Columbia, Communications, Cranford, Delaware Valley Charter, Edison, Egg Harbor Township, Elizabeth, Freehold Regional, Glen Ridge, Governor Livingston, Henry Hudson Regional, High Tech, Highstown, Hillsborough, Holmdel, Hope Academy, Hunterdown Central, John. P. Stevens, Keansburg, Keyport, Lacey Township, Long Branch, Lower Cape May Regional, Lower Merion, Mainline, Regional, Manalapan, Manasquan, Marine Academy of Science and Technology, Matawan Regional, Mater Dei, Marine Academy of Technology and Environmental Science, Middletown North, Middletown South, Monsignor Donovan, Motivation, Newark Vo-Tech, North Plainfield, Oakcrest, Ocean Township, Old Bridge, Palisades Park, Paramus Catholic, Point Pleasant Beach, Ranney, Raritan, Red Bank Regional, Red Bank Catholic, Rumson Fair Haven Regional, Rutgers Prep, Shore Regional, Somerset County Vocational and Technical Schools, South Brunswick, St. Rose Catholic, St. Huberts Catholic High School for Girls, St. Josephs, Steinart, Toms River North, Upper Darby, Wall, West Windsor, Plainsboro, Wildwood.

## Colleges & Universities

Atlantic Cape Community College, Brookdale Community College, Centenary College, Cornell University, Georgian Court University, Kean University, Middlesex County College, Monmouth University, Montclair College, New Jersey Institute of Technology, Ocean County College, Ramapo College, Raritan Valley Community College, Rider University, Rutgers University, Stockton College, Syracuse University, United States Military Academy.

## Businesses & Organizations

First Bank of Sea Isle City, Home Inspections, Adventure Aquarium, Atlantic City Electric, Aveda, Bank of New York, Bank of America, Bayshore Recycling, Becton Dickinson, Below the Bridge Skate Park, BNY Mellon, Bruck-Mellon, Carrabbas Italian Restaurant, Central Jersey United Way, Colgate Palmolive, Comcast, Defined Logic, Gloria Nilson Realtors, Goosie LLC, Greenstar Environmental Solutions LLC, Hewlett Packard, Kohls, Labrador Lounge, Langosta Lounge, Mary Kay McMillin EEC, Merrill Lynch, Mister Natural Landscaping, NJ American Water, NJ Natural Gas, NJ Superior Court, Oakhurst Veterinary Hospital, Ocean City Aquatics & Fitness Center, Pershing, Ray Catena Motor Corporation, Ricoh, Rutgers Cooperative Extension, Sitting 4 Paws, Starbucks, Sterling Healthcare, Timberland, United Teletech Financial Federal Credit Union, Vista Shores Homes Association, Wakefern Food Corp.

## Cub Scout Packs

Packs 12, 29, 32, 34, 59, 66, 76, 77, 82, 126, 137, 142, 175, 194, 205, 209, 241, 242, 258, 389, 637

## Boy Scout Troops

Troops 12, 22, 36, 47, 50, 68, 76, 77, 92, 97, 131, 155, 177, 204, 275, 333, 515, 634

## Brownies

Troops 218, 1065, 1104, 6561, 11325, 15527

## Daisies

Troops 834, 1351

## Girl Scout Troops

Troops 29, 71, 163, 228, 242, 384, 513, 577, 616, 617, 662, 753, 848, 1104, 1183, 1242, 1248, 1303, 1368, 1404, 1598, 1705, 1810, 1865, 2234, 11013, 12022, 13065, 13935, 13998, 15663, 16116, 42165, 43006, 60561, 61278, 80581

## Civic Groups

4-H Eco Maniacs, Absegami Interact Club, Atlantic Highlands Emergency Service, Beers Street Community Club, Bayshore Regional Watershed Council, ARC of Atlantic County, Brigantine Beach Volleyball Association, Brigantine Knights of Columbus, Brigantine Senior Citizens Club, buildOn, Caring Kids, Central Jersey Ski Club, COA Student Ocean Advocates, Coastal Jersey Parrothead Club, Cornell Club of Monmouth/Ocean, Country Critter 4-H Club, Dancers Workshop, East Coast Diving, Fresh Start, Friends of Forsythe, Friends of Pews Creek, Greater Philadelphia Boston Terrier Group, Green Party of Monmouth County, Humane Society of Ocean City, I.L. Perez Teen Group, Ideal Beach Association, Jersey Shore Parrot Head Club, Leisure Village West Nature Club, Leo Club, Lit Chicks, Manasquan Beach Improvement Association, Meetup.com-Road Not Taken Hiking and Adventuring, Midway Beach Condo Association, Monmouth County Association of Realtors, Monmouth County Nursing, Navesink Swimming River Watershed Group, NJ Beach Buggy Association, NJ Environmental Federation, Noah's Ark Pet Pals 4-H Club, Notre Dame Club of Jersey Shore, Ocean City Beach Buggy Association, Ocean City Gardens Civic Association, Ocean County Board of Realtors, Ocean Pointe Realtors, Ortleigh Beach Committee, Peacemakers, Point Pleasant Beach Key Club, Pomona Gunning Club, Rainbown Girls International, Reality Owners Association, Stone Harbor, Registered Republican Club of Lavallette, Rumson Garden Club, Save Barnegat Bay, Seabrook Village, Seacoast Dancers, Seaweeders Garden Club, Shore Riptide Hockey Team, Sierra Club, Silver Bay, Toms River, Somerset County Interact-Rotary Club, South Monmouth Board of Realtors, Sportsman Service League, Spring Lake Women's Club, Surfirder (Jersey Shore Chapter), Surfirder (South Jersey Chapter), Team Survivor Tri State, The GoodWorx Foundation, The Nature Center of Cape May, The Nature Conservancy, Tonya Keller Recreation Center, Tri State Parrothead Club, Walkers Club of Lavallette, Women's Club of Spring Lake.

## Government Agencies & Environmental Commissions

Army National Guard, Ameri-Corps NJ Watershed Ambassador Program, Aberdeen EC, Atlantic Highlands EC, Beachwood EC, Borough of Glen Ridge Administration, Bradley Beach EC, Cape Atlantic Marine Corps League, Coast Guard Auxillary Flotilla 82, Coast Guard Recruit Company D 183, Highlands EC, Keyport EC, Keyport Town Council, Lavallette EC, Manasquan EC, Middletown EC, Ocean City EC, Ocean County Woman's Commission, Sea Isle City EC, Seaside Park Borough Council & Administration, Spring Lake EC, Tinton Falls Town Council, Town of Mantoloking, United Parcel Service WLD, Forsythe Wildlife Refuge, Keyport Police Explorers Troop 267.

## Faith Based Groups

All Saints (Oceanville), Westwood UM Church, Good Sheppard Lutheran, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, King of Kings Lutheran Church, Rahway/Plainfield Quakers, Rumson Presbyterian Church, Searchlight Church, St. Annes Youth Group, St. Benedict Church (Holmdel), St. Catherines Church Youth Group, St. James Church, St. Lukes RC Church, St. Marks Church, St. Michaels Youth Group, The King Parish Church, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Monmouth County, Waterspirit.

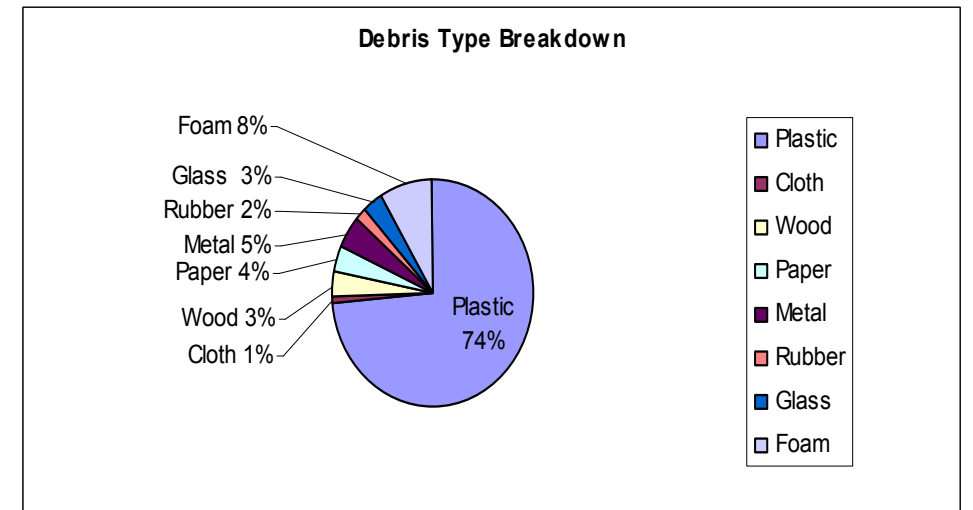




# Beach Sweeps 2010 Data Results

	Spring Total	Fall Total	2010 Totals	Percentage of Total
Food, Candy Wrappers/Bags	24339	18774	43113*	9.1%
Store/Shopping Bags	5189	3430	8619*	1.8%
Trash Bags	2258	1344	3602*	0.8%
Other Bags	3128	1944	5072	1.1%
Beverages/Soda Bottles	11870	6342	18212	3.8%
Bleach/Cleaner Bottles	469	186	655	0.1%
Milk/Water/Gallon Jugs	1233	707	1940	0.4%
Motor Oil/Lotion Bottles	364	149	513	0.1%
Tan Oil/Lotion Bottle	373	228	601	0.1%
Other Bottles	1457	834	2291	0.5%
Buckets/Crates/Bins	428	129	557	0.1%
Cap/Lids	30534	31361	61895*	13.0%
Cap/Rings	3854	2384	6238	1.3%
Cigarette Filters	17731	28172	45903*	9.7%
Cigarette Lighters	1007	963	1970*	0.4%
Cigarette Packaging	1438	1459	2897	0.6%
Cigar Tips	5216	5112	10328*	2.2%
Cups	3723	2436	6159*	1.3%
Diapers	72	90	162	0.0%
Fishing Bait Bags/Containers	374	300	674	0.1%
Fishing Line	647	658	1305	0.3%
Fishing Lures, Floats	370	227	597	0.1%
Fishing Nets - Small	146	83	229	0.0%
Fishing Nets - Large	51	30	81	0.0%
Fork, Knives, Spoons	4200	2951	7151*	1.5%
Light Sticks	1838	337	2175*	0.5%
Plastic Pieces	29714	21565	51279*	10.8%
Ribbon/Tape (no balloon)	1437	770	2207*	0.5%
Rope - short	1386	672	2058	0.4%
Rope - Long	336	136	472*	0.1%
6-Pack Holders	334	187	521	0.1%
Sheeting Tarps	160	103	263	0.1%
Shotgun Shells	1072	601	1673	0.4%
Strapping Bands	932	793	1725*	0.4%
Straws/Stirrers	19759	19270	39029*	8.2%
Syringes	183	164	347	0.1%
Tampon Applicators	3381	2551	5932*	1.2%
Toys	1472	1416	2888*	0.6%
Vegetable Mesh Sacks	102	88	190*	0.0%
Other Plastics (specify)	3581	3469	7050	1.5%
Building Materials (specify)	808	387	1195*	0.3%
Buoys/Floats	554	261	815*	0.2%
Cups	3562	1899	5461*	1.1%
Egg Cartons	84	36	120	0.0%
Fast Food Containers	720	561	1281*	0.3%
Meat Trays	242	121	363	0.2%
Packaging Materials	2226	1328	3554	0.7%
Pieces	14360	7739	22099*	4.6%
Plates	472	396	868*	0.2%
Other Foam Plastic (specify)	2446	1990	4436*	0.9%

Beverage Bottles	3904	2165	6069	1.3%
Food Jars	211	78	289	0.1%
Other Bottles/Jars	365	136	501	0.1%
Lights: Bulbs	125	73	198	0.0%
Lights: Fluorescent Tubes	6	15	21	0.0%
Pieces	4831	2892	7723*	1.6%
Tile/Ceramic Pieces	296	209	505	0.1%
Other Glass (specify)	221	194	415	0.1%
Balloons - Mylar	463	405	868	0.2%
With String/Ribbon	270	177	447	0.1%
Balloons - Rubber	523	539	1062	0.2%
With String/Ribbon	280	225	505	0.1%
Condoms	255	230	485	0.1%
Gloves	397	344	741*	0.2%
Tires: Part	233	109	342*	0.1%
Tires: Whole	54	30	84	0.0%
Other Rubber: Specify	822	3293	4115*	0.9%
Appliances: Specify	57	11	68	0.0%
Batteries: Car	40	12	52	0.0%
Batteries: Other	257	55	312	0.1%
Bottles Caps	3353	2947	6300	1.3%
Aerosol Cans	1240	130	1370*	0.3%
Beverages Cans	4073	3385	7458*	1.6%
Food Cans	163	112	275	0.1%
Other Cans	153	100	253	0.1%
Car Parts	118	60	178	0.0%
Crab/Fish Traps	25	24	49	0.0%
55 Gallon Drums: Old	32	0	32*	0.0%
55 Gallon Drums: New	3	13	16	0.0%
Fishing: Hooks	81	41	122	0.0%
Fishing: Sinkers	27	30	57	0.0%
Foil	707	657	1364	0.3%
Nails	456	945	1401	0.3%
Pieces	519	656	1175*	0.2%
Pull/Pop Tabs	298	171	469	0.1%
Wire	556	360	916*	0.2%
Other Metal: Specify	439	453	892*	0.2%
Paper Bags	707	703	1410*	0.3%
Cardboard	855	575	1430	0.1%
Cartons/Boxes	370	274	644	0.1%
Cups	1343	964	2307	0.5%
Newspaper/Magazines	1054	693	1747	0.4%
Pieces	4413	4198	8611*	1.8%
Plates	476	303	779*	0.2%
Other Paper: Specify	854	984	1838	0.4%
Crab/Lobster Traps	41	60	101*	0.0%
Crates/Baskets	62	17	79*	0.0%
Ice Cream Spoon/Sticks	424	733	1157	0.2%
Lumber Pieces	6346	4038	10384*	2.2%
Pallets	146	89	235*	0.0%
Other Wood: Specify	2936	1086	4022*	0.8%
Blankets/Sheets/Towels	235	209	444*	0.1%
Clothing: Specify	589	440	1029*	0.2%
Shoes/Sandals	543	475	1018*	0.2%
String (No Balloon)	854	705	1559*	0.3%
Other Cloth: Specify	535	515	1050	0.2%



	Spring	Fall	Total
<b>Items Collected</b>	260,268	215,053	475,321*
<b>Participants</b>	4,883	3,489	8,372*
<b>Items Collected Per Person</b>	53	62	57

\* Denotes record amount.



## Roster of the Ridiculous

...almost everything including the kitchen sink

Ten-Gallon Gas Tank	Unopened Census Form	Wallet
Razor Scooter	Antique Sewing Machine	Paint Brushes
Jewelry Box	Coin Sorting Machine	Children's Pool
Fire Extinguisher	Couch Cushion	Kitchen Cart
Tube Television Set	Area Rug	Keg
Bed Springs	Toys R Us Shopping Cart	Pant legs
Area Rug	Kitchen Sink	Mattress
Car Grill	Drug Bag	House Siding
Christmas Decorations	Money (\$1, \$5 bills)	Industrial Drum
Televisions (4)	Japanese War Figure	Hair Dye
Brooms and Dustpan	Undergarments (5)	Showerhead
Plastic Fingernails	MP3 Player	Headphones
Toilet Seat Lid	Toothbrush	Bottle of Syrup
Plastic Easter Eggs	Cell Phone	Light Switch Plate
Stuffed Panda Bear	Handheld Electric Pump	Tires
Lottery Ticket	Can of Corned Beef	Car Bumper
Pickup Truck Bed Cap	Coin Sorting Machine	Debit Cards
Car Seat	Ice Machine	Rental Car Keys
Mailbox	DVD's	Dust Pan
Bed Springs	Plastic Cow	Door Frame
Home Depot Apron	Toilet Seat Lid	Smoke Alarm
Toothbrush	Cell Phone	Pacifiers (3)
Human Shaped Candles	Test Tube	Whistle
Ballet Slipper	Easter Egg (with \$3 in it)	Camera

## Awash in Sports

Surfboards (2)	Lacrosse Balls (2)	Whistle
Hockey Pucks	Inhaler	Bike Seat
Baseball Bat and Balls	Duck Caller	Tennis Ball
Boomerang	Baseball	Bike Reflector
Golf Ball	Fishing Rods	Ping Pong Ball
Mouthguards(3)	Hula Hoop	Wiffleball Bat
Basketball	Football	Leather Golf Club Grip



## Top Twelve Marine Debris Items

2010 Rank	Debris Item	Total Items	% of Total	2009 Rank	2008 Rank	2007 Rank
1	Plastic Caps/Lids	61,895	13	1	2	2
2	Plastic Pieces	51,249	11	3	4	1
3	Cigarette Filters	45,903	10	2	1	4
4	Food Wrappers/Bags	43,113	9	5	3	5
5	Straws/Stirrers	39,029	8	4	5	3
6	Foam Pieces	22,099	5	6	6	6
7	Beverage/Soda Bottles	18,212	4	7	7	7
8	Lumbar Pieces	10,384	2	10	*	12
9	Cigar Tips	10,328	2	12	8	*
10	Shopping Bags	8,619	2	11	10	*
11	Paper Pieces	8,611	2	*	9	*
12	Glass Pieces	7,723	2	*	8	8
Dirty Dozen Total Debris Items		327,195	69%			

\* Indicates item did not rank in top 12 in previous year.





# 25th Anniversary Symposium

To celebrate 25 years of Beach Sweeps, Clean Ocean Action (COA) hosted the first “Beach Sweep Symposium Against Beach Litter” at Brookdale Community College. Over 100 participants attended to celebrate and learn about 25 years of Beach Sweep data. The symposium highlighted a generation of Beach Sweeps, citizen action, steps needed for naturally clean beaches, and newly released information about plastic pollution in the North Atlantic. Most importantly, the Symposium celebrated a generation of citizen action against litter. The Symposium’s keynote address was given by U.S. Representative Frank Pallone who spoke about how clean beaches and waterways are essential for our economy, health, and our environment. Symposium speakers included:

- NJ State Senator Sean Kean (R-11)
- NJ State Senator Barbara Buono (D-18)
- Kari Martin, Long-time COA Beach Sweep Coordinator
- Tavia Danch, Pollution Prevention Coordinator, COA Scientists
- Heather Saffert, Ph.D., and Jenni Samson, Ph.D., COA Scientists
- Giora Proskurowski, Ph.D., Oceanography Faculty Scientist, Sea Education Association (SEA)
- Skye Moret-Ferguson, SEA Senior Assistant Scientist
- John Weber, East Coast Regional Manager, Surfrider Foundation
- Anita Zalom, Dedicated Beach Captain
- Kathleen Gasienica, NJ Marine Sciences Consortium
- Barbara Boyd, Kristan Scala, Jenna Regal, Marine Academy of Science and Technology
- Steve Mullen, Surfrider Foundation, South Jersey Chapter
- Ralph Coscia, President, Citizens Right to Access Beaches
- Gary Conover, Atlantic County Utilities Authority

## Show Us The Data! Trends in Beach Sweeps Data (1993-2009)

Collecting data is tedious work; however it is essential to the success of the Beach Sweeps. It turns a few volunteer hours into a legacy of information that Clean Ocean Action and others use to promote programs to reduce litter. Challenging as it may be – data collection is the evidence of action. It is evidence of the hard work of dedicated volunteers and provides the proof needed to reduce litter.

In celebration of the Beach Sweeps 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, Clean Ocean Action scientists reviewed 15 years (1993-2009) of data to search for trends in beach litter. What did we find? The results are contained in the [Journal of Citizen Action Against Beach Sweeps](#), which can be found on our website.

Here are a few highlights found in the data analysis:

- The amount of plastic pieces collected has relatively increased from 71% in 1993 to 80% in 2009. Rubber and cloth items also increased. In contrast, the relative percentages of glass and paper both declined.
- As the number of volunteers and clean up sites increased over the years, so did the amount of debris collected.
- The number of plastic bags collected more than quadrupled from 2,793 in 1993 to 12,873 in 2009.
- Plastic caps and lids also soared from 6,947 in 1993 to 33,551 in 2009.
- Plastic rings jumped from 41 in 2002 (when they were first added to the data card) to 8,215 in 2009.

Please visit [www.cleanoceanaction.org](http://www.cleanoceanaction.org) to view the full report.



Celebrating 25 Years!





## SPECIAL THANKS

To our 2010 Beach Sweeps Sponsors:  
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